(b) whether the present target for production and sale is more than the target set for the last year; and

(c) if so, what is the difference between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The targets set for Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) for production and sale of saleable steel during 1999-2000 were 3.27 MT and 3.64 MT respectively. 2.95 MT and 0.42 MT of steel were sold in the domestic and foreign markets respectively during the last financial year;

(b) Target set for the present year is more in case of production of saleable steel and less in case of sales.

(c) The difference in the targets for production and sale between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are (+) 2,30,000 tonnes for production and (-) 2,72,000 tonnes for sales.

Privatisation of Visveswariah Iron and Steel Company

3180. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to privatise Visveswariah Iron and Steel Company in Bhadravathi, Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that has been approved by the Government includes, *inter-alia,* initiation of the process of formation of a joint venture for Visveswaraiah Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) while protecting the jobs of existing employees.

Poor Tribals Joining PWG in A.P.

3181. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty is forcing the poor tribals of certain areas like Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh to join People's War Group; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to assist the tribals to get the benefit of all Government sponsored schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) and (b) Naxalism in Nizamabad is mainly Socio-Economic based Law and Order problem involving different sections of society and not only the tribals.

However, for the overall development of the Scheduled Tribes, the Government of India has adopted Tribal Sub-Plan strategy with the objectives of (i) bringing the Scheduled Tribes on par with other sections of the society and (ii) protecting them from exploitation by various interest groups. The TSP strategy is implemented through Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) Pockets, Clusters, etc. Andhra Pradesh is also implementing the Tribal Sub Plan through 8 ITDPs, 41 MADAs and 17 Clusters. Nizamabad District is also covered under MADA Programme. Besides, this Ministry has been releasing funds under various schemes to Andhra Pradesh for Socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes.

Upliftment of Tribal Areas

3182. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the new steps Government propose for the upliftment of tribals ;

(b) whether there is any special package for sanctioning loan to start tribal oriented trade in their own areas ;

(c) whether Government have taken enough care to provide drinking water, education, health, housing, roads and sanitation in the tribal areas of the country ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) A number of schemes/programmes for the upliftment of tribals are being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. A scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups was also launched in 1998-99 under which 75 communities have been identified in 15 States/UTs for special treatment. Emphasis is laid on close monitoring of the schemes/programmes for their timely implementation and for ensuring that the benefits reach the target group.

(b) The National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) extends concessional financial assistance through State SC and ST Finance and Development Corporations for income generating activities such as land purchase and development, irrigation, sericulture, poultry, dairy, handlooms, handicrafts, etc. for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.